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See https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/nysparks/ny_boatersguide_21/ for latest edition of the NYS Boaters Guide)

Powerboat Operation – New Requirements under Brianna’s Law: Persons born on or after January 1, 1993 must have successfully completed a New York State approved / NASBLA, Power Squadron, or Coast Guard Safe Boating Course in order to operate a mechanically propelled vessel. Please refer to the NYS Boaters Guide. Certificates or a NYS driver’s license with the “anchor” symbol must be in the operator’s possession (on the boat).

Personal Watercraft: Operators must be at least 14 years old. Operators of all ages are required to have passed one of the NYS approved safe boating courses. Certificates must be in the operator’s possession.

Maximum Speed and Noise Limits:

- 45 mph during daylight hours, 25 mph after sunset until sunrise *and times of reduced visibility*
- Maximum 90 decibels stationary, 75 decibels underway (mufflers must remain in place)
- 5 mph within 200 ft of shore, docks, floats or anchored boats (except when pulling up or dropping off a water skier)
- In times of high or low water, be alert to additional restrictions announced by the Sheriffs
- Organized events that desire exceptions to NYS laws must apply for a Marine Regatta permit, see <https://www.parks.ny.gov/documents/recreation/boating/RegattaPermitApplication.pdf>

Bow Riding is not permitted; passengers must be seated within the vessel, not on the gunwale, motor hatch or stern while underway.

Children under 12 on board a vessel under 26 feet must wear an appropriately sized Type I, II or III USCG Approved life jacket while boat is underway. (Type III & V inflatable Life Jackets not approved under 16)

Water Skiing:

- Tow boat must have an observer at least ten years of age, in addition to the operator
- Skier must wear an approved Life Jacket designed for water sports – not an inflatable life jacket
- Water Skiing is prohibited between sunset and sunrise and times of reduced visibility.

Diver Down Regulation: All boats must stay 100 feet from “diver down” flags, these are the Alpha Flag (blue pennant with white stripe at base) and the Diver Flag (red rectangle with white diagonal stripe).

Boating Equipment	Motor Boat	PWC	Manually powered vessels and Sailboats under 23 feet
Life Jackets	One per person	One per person	One per person (including paddle craft ¹)
Throw able Device	Type IV ²	Not Required	Type IV ²
Fire Extinguisher(s) – B1	All	Federal Rules Require	Not Required
Visual Distress Signals	See Boaters Guide, p. 23		
Nighttime: 3 Red Flares or USCG approved LED Light* Daytime: Distress Flag	16 ft & up (under 16’ night only) Day only	Not Required ³ Required	Sailboats from Sunset to Sunrise (not required on manually powered vessels) Not Required
Anchor	All	Not Required	Not Required
Horn/Bell/Whistle –Mechanical	39 ft & over	Not Required	Not Required
Whistle or Horn – Mouth	Under 39 ft	All	Not Required (whistle req’d on paddle craft)
Navigation Lights	Bow & Stern	Not Required ³	White Lantern ⁴

*The Sirius Signal SOS distress light is approved by the US Coast Guard and NYS in place of flares.

Notes regarding ‘Not Required’ items

1. Paddle Craft include canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards and pedal boats.
2. All boats 16 ft & longer (except canoes and kayaks) require a buoyancy cushion or other throw able device.
3. PWC operation is not permitted from sunset to sunrise and during times of reduced visibility.
4. Sailboats under power must exhibit navigation lights required of a motor boat.

THE COLD WATER LAW requires all occupants of a vessel 21’ or less to wear a Life Jacket from Nov. 1 to May 1 while underway – *if the vessel is not tied to the dock, it is “underway”*.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF EXPIRATION DATES ON FLARES AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Additional Suggested Equipment: First Aid Kit, Bailer, Boat Hook, Paddle, Compass, Marine Radio